Board of Elections

FY 2016 Revised and FY 2017 Recommended
Staff Presentation
March 10, 2016
Departmental Functions

- Managing voting machines
- Certifying election results
- Managing election officials
- Overseeing voter registration
- Monitoring campaign finance reporting
- Matching public funds for general elections
Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

- Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Elections & Civics Division are charged with different responsibilities
  - Complementary tasks, many of which are mandated by Rhode Island General Laws
# Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Elections</th>
<th>Secretary of State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Supervises all elections</td>
<td>• Provides municipalities with forms for candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Instructs and certifies all election officials assigned to polls</td>
<td>• Certifies federal and state candidates for ballot placement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Trains poll workers</td>
<td>• Prepares state and local referenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Prepares and distributes poll worker guides and related materials</td>
<td>• Describes and explains state referenda in Voter Handbook</td>
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## Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Prepares and delivers voting machines and supplies to polling places</td>
<td>• Publishes guides for candidates, election officials, and voters</td>
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<td>• Conducts recounts</td>
<td>• Provides ballot information and polling place locations on website</td>
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<td>• Certifies election results to Secretary of State</td>
<td>• Prepares and prints ballots</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conducts voter registration drives</td>
<td>• Maintains central voter registration system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>FY 2016 Enacted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$1,196,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>73,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>526,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>21,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,818,305</td>
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Budget Issues

- Personnel
- Elections
- Legal Services
- Matching Public Funds
- New Voting Equipment
- Building and Storage Space
Target Budget

- Budget Office provided general revenue target of $2.1 million
  - Current service adjustments of $0.4 million
  - 7.5% reduction of $0.1 million
- Request $0.3 million above target
- Recommendation is $0.1 million below target
Personnel

- **Board Members**
  - No vacancies
  - Currently only four of the seven members accept $7,000 annual salary

- **11.0 FTEs for FY 2016 and 12.0 for FY 2017**
  - Governor adds new position for compliance activities with new campaign finance laws
    - Requested for revised but not recommended
  - Currently 9.0 are filled

- **Seasonal Staff varies with two-year election cycle**
Personnel

- FY 2016 Revised - $1.1 million
  - $63,816 less than enacted
    - Turnover & statewide medical benefit savings
- FY 2017 - $1.4 million
  - $243,601 more than enacted
    - New position
    - Turnover savings & statewide medical benefit savings
Personnel

- Seasonal Staff
  - FY 2016
    - $60,000 added in revised
    - Funding was not included in the enacted budget
  - 2016 Presidential Preference Primary
- FY 2017
  - Governor recommends $210,000
  - 2016 November election
Legal

- Board requests $84,000 for FY 2016 & FY 2017
- Governor recommends $66,095 for both years
  - Based on actual expenses from recent fiscal years
  - Board spent $25,062 as of March 2016
- Governor also includes $85,000 in the revised budget for a settlement with a former employee
  - Requested by the Board after budget submission
Voting Equipment

- 2015 Assembly enacted 2015-H 6312, Substitute A authorizing the Secretary of State
  - submit and approve specifications used in procuring voting systems, voting system-related services and accessible voting equipment
- Last purchased voting machines in 1997
- Current maintenance budget for the voting equipment is $0.4 million with $0.1 million in the Office and the remaining budgeted in the Board of Elections budget
Election Expenses

- $0.2 million for FY 2017 election supplies
  - $135,000 for delivery services
  - $70,000 for printing
- Cyclical expense
Storage

- Board occupies 10,350 square feet at Cranston Street Armory for storage
  - Limited storage space at current facility (50 Branch Ave.)
- State Fire Marshal’s Office expressed concern about some materials being stored
- FY 2016 enacted budget includes $60,000 for alternative storage space
  - No funds requested in revised or FY 2017
  - Plan is to continue using the Armory
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